

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
April 25, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Attorney Alfredo Estrada gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** All members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca read a Proclamation to designate “Arbor Day” on Friday, April 28, 2017. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway presented detailed information on training for national disasters. From May 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> local, state and federal first-responder organizations will conduct United Front 2017, a disaster-response, training exercise at the site of the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza. White Lodging made the venue available for the large, full-scale training exercise prior to completing full demolition of the site, which is now underway. The training operation will simulate a collapsed building from a tornado. Local businesses and the general public can expect to see an increase of traffic on Interstate 65, U.S. 30, and Broadway Street as approximately 350 training participants contribute to the typical traffic throughout Merrillville and Crown Point. The public should also expect to see a high number of military and emergency response vehicles in the area, particularly near the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza. The focus of this year’s exercise is to build partnership capacity between participants through this multi-organizational event. The exercise will bring high-level training to local first responders. It is an opportunity for members of the military and local responders to share best practices for critical tactics, techniques and procedures in response to natural disasters.

President Hardaway spoke about the MFPT Board Letter that was provided to the Town Council members for review. President Hardaway read part of a letter from Attorney Bill Touche. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the recommendation from the MFPT Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion related to this topic followed. The motion carried by a 4-3 roll call vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated April 25, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2017. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Minchuk had no report.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Uzelac brought up the topic of leaf burning. She suggested information to be included in the next Talk of the Town newsletter informing residents that burning leaves is a violation of the Town ordinance.

Mr. Pettit spoke about the recent daycare violation at a home day care facility. Discussion among the Town Council followed regarding creating a new ordinance to implement all necessary changes needed as an effort to ensure safety at any day care facilities located within the Town of Merrillville. Mrs. Uzelac and Mr. Pettit will follow up with Town Attorney John Bushemi to create the ordinance. President Hardaway hopes their efforts will produce a document ready for review by the next Town Council meeting of May 9th.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Uzelac discussed the nuisance of having portable basketball hoops in the streets. President Hardaway mentioned that Code Enforcement will address this matter.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca mentioned that there will be a Parks Board meeting on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Orlich said the Spring/Summer brochure is now available and has also been put online as an effort to reduce copies and “Go Green”. Ms. Orlich announced the line-up for the Concert in the Park on July 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-11 p.m. There will be several bands from around the area performing, along with the Cast from Reinhart Theater’s Summer Production of Beauty and The Beast. Ms. Orlich briefly commented on the 3 vendors whom responded to the Parks RFP, the information was passed along to the Town Council. Ms. Orlich provided an update regarding Southbrook Park. A celebration for Arbor Day will be held on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Parks department. Children from Aquinas Catholic School grades 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> will help with planting.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca announced the Fourth of July parade will be held on July 4<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m.

Mr. Pettit reminded everyone that the Spaghetti Benefit Dinner for the Ross Township Food Pantry will take place at S.S.Constantine & Helen Greek Church on Thursday, May 4, 2017 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mr. Spann had no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway referred to the Director of Code Enforcement, Vickie Bunnell. Mrs. Bunnell asked the assistance of all Town Council members to look for any code enforcement matters within their Ward and communicate the information back to her as an effort to address issues in a timely fashion. Mrs. Bunnell discussed the details related to the ordinance used for basketball hoops located in the street. Discussion followed. President Hardaway suggested the residents call Code Enforcement directly with any issues and/or matters that need to be addressed. Mrs. Bunnell commented that providing the address of the location is one of the most important things to have when reporting a violation.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 17-05:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Merrillville Fire Territory Cumulative Fire Equipment Fund, of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:** None

**RESOLUTIONS:** None

**BZA ACTIONS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, April 26, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.  
Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, April 26, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.  
Stormwater Management Board meeting, May 2, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.  
Police Commission meeting, May 5, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.  
Rain Barrel pick up, May 9, 2017 at Stormwater Management located at 7404 Broadway at 3:00 p.m.  
Town Council meeting, May 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.  
Town Vehicle Auction – Friday, May 5, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made.

---

**Richard Hardaway, President**

---

**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**